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ABSTRACT

A telephone survey of a random sample of over 1,650 Pennsylvania citizens solicited opinions on proposals for improvements in the areas of: (1) welfare reform; (2) smoking reduction; (3) unintended pregnancies and unwanted births; (4) education reform; (5) children's health and safety; and (6) workmen's compensation. Each section of this report provides a bar graph showing the percentage of citizens supporting each proposal along with a narrative description of each proposal and results. In addition, tables list breakdowns of responses by rural and urban status, region, age, sex, marital status, educational level, political affiliation, religious preference, and age of children. Results of the education portion of the survey show that the majority of Pennsylvanians support: (1) funding additional Head Start classes; (2) lowering the age of required school attendance from 8 to 5 or 6; (3) requiring financially able parents to pay for college; (4) raising the legal dropout age from 16 to 18; (5) funding public education mostly through state income tax; (6) mandating full-day kindergarten; and (7) banning physical punishment in public schools. Only 40 percent support an increase in the number of school days in a school year. Appendices provide a map of regional and urban-rural classification, lists of urban and rural counties, and characteristics of the sample survey. (KS)

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ED 362 347

RC

Views of Pennsylvania Citizens

THE PUBLIC MIND

EDUCATION
WELFARE REFORM
REDUCING SMOKING
WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION
CHILDREN'S HEALTH & SAFETY
UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES / BIRTHS

MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY RURAL SERVICES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Report No. 5
May 1993

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THE RURAL SERVICES INSTITUTE

BACKGROUND

The Rural Services Institute (RSI) was established in 1984 as the applied research and community service arm of Mansfield University within the Division of Community Services and Continuing Education.

PURPOSE

Our purpose is to share the resources of the university with the regional rural community. We encourage and assist students, faculty, and staff to meet the identified needs of business and industry, area students, local governments, and social service agencies.

MISSION

Our mission is to engage in community service on behalf of the university and to be the applied research arm of Mansfield University.

How We Will Accomplish Our Mission

In carrying out our mission we will:

*strive for excellence in all our efforts;
*apply the resources of the university to help solve community problems;
*be committed to providing leadership for the economic revitalization and development of the region;
*be committed to increasing the problem solving capacity of the region;
*work at raising people's expectation levels and their self esteem;
*assume the role of pointing out problems to the community;
*act as a facilitator in helping the community reach solutions to their identified problems;
*do applied research and pilot projects on potential solutions to these problems;
*strive to enhance the image of Mansfield University;
*seek to attain the goals set by the State System of Higher Education and Mansfield University.

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WELFARE REFORM

Require Public Service Work of Welfare Recipients. President Clinton has pledged to "end welfare as we know it." He has promised to "provide people with the education, training, job placement assistance and child care they need for two years—so that they can break the cycle of dependency. After two years, those who can work will be required to go to work, either in the private sector or in meaningful community service jobs."

Pennsylvanians strongly support the Clinton proposal. "Requiring people receiving public assistance to do public service work" has the backing of 89 percent of Pennsylvanians, including both Republicans and Democrats. Still, despite public sentiment, one skeptical respondent noted, "Workfare didn't work too well under Thornburgh. Big city public employee unions have to protect their jobs. They ain't goin' let workfare work." Another asked: "Will teenage welfare mothers work in community service centers instead of going to school?"

Offer the Private Sector Incentives to Train and Hire Long-Term Welfare Recipients. Despite the mixed results of such programs in the past, most Pennsylvanians (84%) still support the general idea of providing the private sector with incentives to train and hire long-term welfare recipients. Support for such incentives seems to stem from a distrust in the effectiveness and efficiency of the public sector. Yet, as one skeptic noted, there is a "great deal of devil in the detail." For example, if the incentive is an added opportunity to win the bid on a state contract, would the incentive simply displace current employees?

Tighten Child Support Enforcement. A solid majority (82%) of Pennsylvanians support further tightening of child support enforcement.Though not asked about specific proposals, it appears that there is strong public support for two bills under consideration: (1) that parents of newborns be expected to sign documents to establish paternity; and, (2) that parents who are three months or more delinquent in child support payments lose professional or trade licenses.

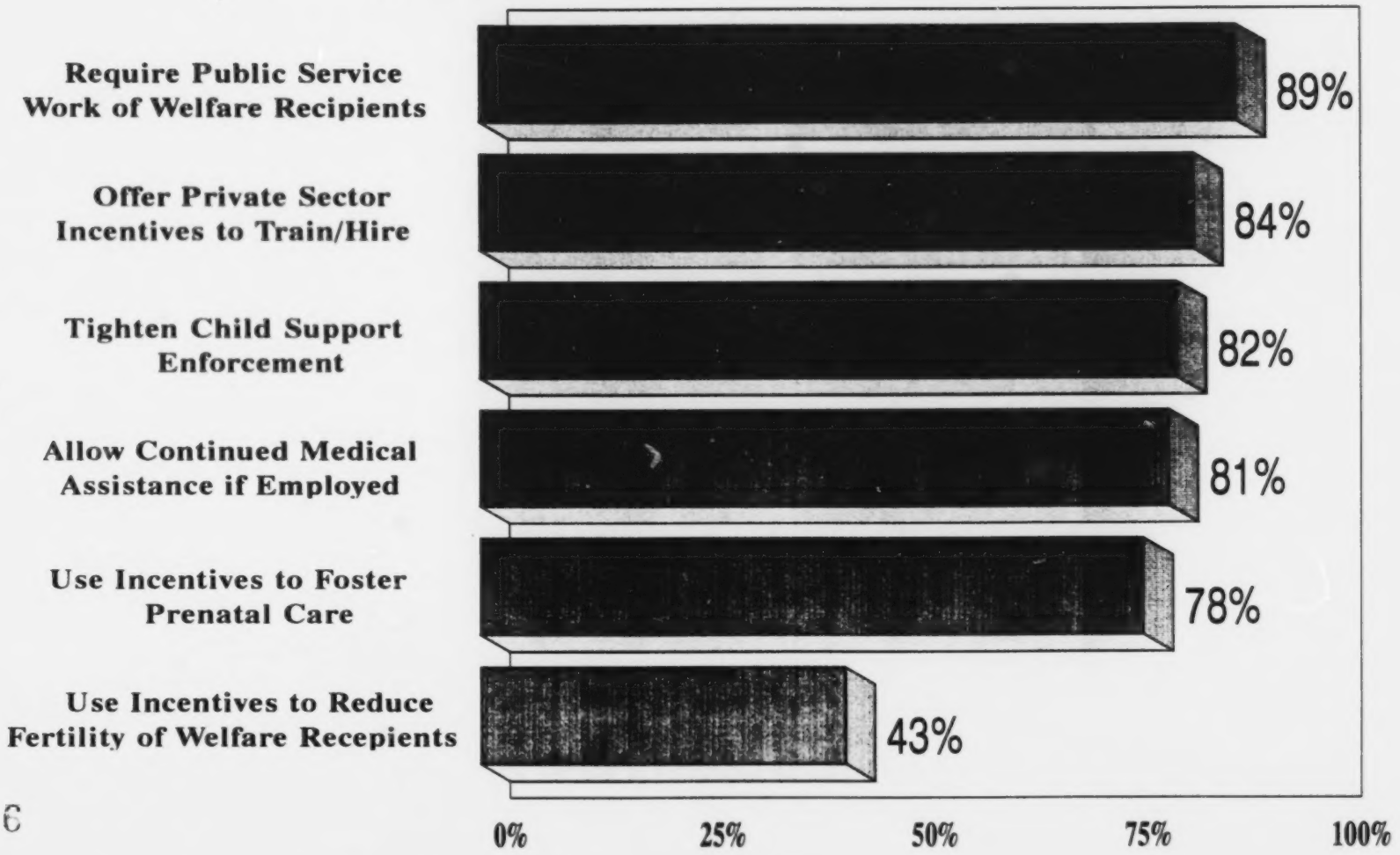
Allow Continued Medical Assistance. In April 1993, the Clinton Administration granted approval for an experimental welfare reform program in Vermont that will allow welfare recipients who gain employment to retain their Medicaid health coverage for three years if the job does not provide medical benefits. A strong majority (81%) of Pennsylvanians would support such a reform. As one respondent noted, "It's not good that some people have to go on and stay on welfare just to get their medical bills paid."

Use Incentives to Foster Pre-natal Care. In Maryland, to reduce the cost associated with preventable premature births and infant morbidity, a pregnant woman receiving public assistance is given an extra $14/month incentive if she gets pre-natal check-ups and care. A clear majority (78%) support the adoption of such a reform.

Use Incentives to Reduce Fertility of Welfare Recipients. In 1992, New Jersey passed welfare reform legislation which denies the payment of additional AFDC benefits to a woman if she has an additional child while already receiving assistance. Opponents of the measure contend that it is unduly punitive and ultimately harmful to the children. As an alternative, in Ohio, welfare reformers have proposed to offer incentives to women on assistance if they avoid having additional children while receiving assistance. At this point, Pennsylvanians do not support such reform: 43 percent, favor; 49 percent, oppose; 8 percent, undecided.

Fig. 1 WELFARE REFORM PROPOSALS

Percentage of Pennsylvanians Who "Favor" Proposal to...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1993

WELFARE REFORM:
Require Public Service Work

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following proposal: require people receiving public assistance to do public service work?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	89%	7%	4%	1686
Rural/Urban				
Rural	91	6	3	367
Urban	88	8	4	1317
Region				
Northwest	86	10	4	170
Southwest	90	6	3	401
Central	89	7	4	364
Northeast	90	6	5	124
Southeast	88	8	5	625
Age				
18 - 34	84	12	4	421
35 - 49	90	7	3	566
50 - 64	91	5	4	361
65 or older	89	4	6	325
Sex				
Male	88	8	3	698
Female	89	7	5	970
Marital Status				
Married	90	6	4	1081
Divorced	85	9	6	143
Separated	79	10	12	43
Widowed	89	7	4	170
Never Married	84	13	3	225
Educational Level				
< High School	85	8	7	201
High School Graduate	89	7	3	929
College Graduate	89	7	4	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican	91	5	4	586
Democrat	88	9	4	663
Independent/Other	92	7	1	84
None	87	7	6	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant	91	5	4	811
Catholic	88	9	3	557
Other/None	83	11	6	305
Children				
Yes - Over 18	92	4	5	561
Yes - Under 18	87	9	4	680
No	87	10	4	398

WELFARE REFORM:
Offer Private Sector Incentives To Train/Hire

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following proposal: Reward private companies that train and hire long-term welfare recipients?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	84%	13%	3%	1689
Rural/Urban				
Rural	81	16	3	368
Urban	85	12	3	1319
Region				
Northwest	81	16	3	171
Southwest	84	11	5	400
Central	83	14	3	365
Northeast	85	13	2	124
Southeast	86	12	2	627
Age				
18 - 34	82	14	3	421
35 - 49	85	13	2	567
50 - 64	87	10	3	364
65 or older	82	14	5	324
Sex				
Male	86	12	2	699
Female	82	13	4	972
Marital Status				
Married	84	13	3	1082
Divorced	86	13	1	143
Separated	89	9	2	44
Widowed	82	12	6	170
Never Married	85	12	4	226
Educational Level				
< High School	81	14	5	201
High School Graduate	83	14	4	931
College Graduate	88	10	2	532
Political Affiliation				
Republican	84	14	2	587
Democrat	88	10	2	664
Independent/Other	84	15	1	84
None	78	16	6	301
Religious Affiliation				
Protestant	84	12	4	814
Catholic	85	13	1	556
Other/None	84	13	4	306
Children				
Yes - Over 18	86	11	3	561
Yes - Under 18	83	14	3	680
No	85	12	3	401

WELFARE REFORM:
Tighten Child Support Enforcement

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following proposal: Make it easier to collect child support from an absentee father if the child is receiving public assistance?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	82%	12%	7%	1681
Rural/Urban				
Rural	81	14	5	365
Urban	82	11	7	1314
Region				
Northwest	82	13	5	168
Southwest	79	13	8	398
Central	82	11	7	364
Northeast	81	13	5	124
Southeast	83	11	6	625
Age				
18 - 34	81	14	6	420
35 - 49	83	11	6	565
50 - 64	82	12	6	360
65 or older	79	11	10	323
Sex				
Male	81	13	6	696
Female	82	10	8	967
Marital Status				
Married	81	12	7	1078
Divorced	84	9	6	141
Separated	86	2	12	43
Widowed	84	10	6	170
Never Married	82	13	5	225
Educational Level				
< High School	77	13	11	201
High School Graduate	81	13	6	925
College Graduate	85	9	6	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican	82	12	6	584
Democrat	82	11	7	661
Independent/Other	81	11	8	84
None	79	14	6	299
Religious Preference				
Protestant	84	10	7	811
Catholic	80	14	6	554
Other/None	79	13	8	303
Children				
Yes - Over 18	81	11	8	559
Yes - Under 18	84	11	5	678
No	78	14	7	399

WELFARE REFORM:
Allow Medical Assistance To Continue If Employed

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following proposal: Allow a welfare recipient to remain on medical assistance if they accept a job that does not provide medical insurance?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	81%	13%	6%	1685
Rural/Urban				
Rural	78	17	5	367
Urban	82	12	6	1316
Region				
Northwest	81	15	4	170
Southwest	80	12	8	401
Central	81	13	6	364
Northeast	77	15	7	124
Southeast	82	13	5	624
Age				
18 - 34	80	16	4	420
35 - 49	84	12	5	566
50 - 64	83	11	6	363
65 or older	73	15	12	323
Sex				
Male	80	14	6	697
Female	81	13	6	970
Marital Status				
Married	81	13	6	1081
Divorced	84	11	4	142
Separated	85	7	7	43
Widowed	76	14	10	169
Never Married	78	17	4	226
Educational Level				
< High School	78	12	10	200
High School Graduate	80	14	6	930
College Graduate	83	12	5	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican	78	15	7	586
Democrat	84	12	4	663
Independent/Other	85	10	6	84
None	78	15	8	299
Religious Affiliation				
Protestant	81	12	7	814
Catholic	82	14	4	554
Other/None	78	15	7	304
Children				
Yes - Over 18	79	12	9	558
Yes - Under 18	84	13	3	679
No	77	15	7	401

WELFARE REFORM:
Use Incentives To Foster Prenatal Care

Question: In Maryland, to reduce the health problems of babies a pregnant woman on welfare is given an extra $14 a month if she gets prenatal care. Would you favor or oppose having a similar program in Pennsylvania?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	78%	18%	4%	1678
Rural/Urban				
Rural	76	21	3	367
Urban	78	17	5	1310
Region				
Northwest	78	20	2	171
Southwest	79	18	4	398
Central	75	19	6	363
Northeast	77	18	6	124
Southeast	78	18	4	621
Age				
18 - 34	84	13	3	420
35 - 49	79	17	4	565
50 - 64	77	19	4	364
65 or older	66	26	8	320
Sex				
Male	74	22	4	695
Female	81	15	5	968
Marital Status				
Married	78	18	4	1078
Divorced	80	14	6	143
Separated	70	20	9	44
Widowed	72	20	8	169
Never Married	81	16	3	225
Educational Level				
< High School	73	22	5	200
High School Graduate	78	19	4	928
College Graduate	80	15	5	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican	73	22	5	585
Democrat	82	15	3	662
Independent/Other	75	20	5	84
None	79	16	5	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant	77	17	6	812
Catholic	79	18	2	555
Other/None	75	19	5	302
Children				
Yes - Over 18	76	19	6	559
Yes - Under 18	80	18	3	679
No	78	17	5	399

WELFARE REFORM:
Use Incentives To Reduce Fertility

Question: Do you favor or oppose the following proposal: Give additional assistance to a woman if she does not become pregnant while on welfare?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	43%	49%	8%	1684
Rural/Urban				
Rural	44	49	8	366
Urban	43	49	8	1316
Region				
Northwest	50	47	3	171
Southwest	40	50	10	400
Central	42	49	9	364
Northeast	50	43	7	123
Southeast	42	50	8	624
Age				
18 - 34	42	53	6	420
35-49	46	47	7	566
50-64	43	48	9	360
65 or older	40	48	12	325
Sex				
Male	45	48	7	698
Female	41	50	9	968
Marital Status				
Married	44	49	8	1080
Divorced	40	46	15	142
Separated	42	44	14	44
Widowed	44	48	8	168
Never Married	43	52	6	226
Educational Level				
< High School	43	47	10	201
High School Graduate	43	49	8	927
College Graduate	44	48	7	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican	43	50	8	584
Democrat	46	47	7	662
Independent/Other	56	36	8	84
None	36	54	9	301
Religious Affiliation				
Protestant	42	49	9	811
Catholic	47	48	6	555
Other/None	39	50	11	305
Children				
Yes - Over 18	44	48	8	559
Yes - Under 18	42	50	9	678
No	45	49	6	400

SMOKING

Smoking Behavior. About 25 percent of Pennsylvanians are self-reported smokers; 27 percent, former smokers; and 48 percent, never-smokers. Current smokers are disproportionately divorced (40%), non-registered as voters (36%), high school dropouts (32%), and young adults (29%). Former smokers are disproportionately the elderly (39%); and, never-smokers are more likely to be single (61%) and young adults (55%).

Increase the Cigarette Tax. According to a recent report in the *American Journal of Public Health* (January, 1992), for each 1-cent increase in cigarette taxes, sales fall by 0.48 packs per capita. The researchers concluded that "state tax increases are effective in reducing smoking and the larger the tax increase, the larger the drop in cigarette smoking." They estimated that a 10-cent increase would cut consumption by about 3 to 5 percent. At this point, a strong majority of Pennsylvanians (78%) support a 10-cent increase if the additional revenue is used to provide health insurance for uninsured children.

Possession Law. Currently, it is illegal to sell cigarettes to minors, but it is not illegal for minors to possess cigarettes. Anti-smoking advocates are split on whether or not a possession law would be appropriate and/or effective in reducing teenage smoking. In fact, the organization Smoker-Free Pennsylvania holds that such possession laws as that passed in Oregon is a ploy of the tobacco industry to criminalize young addicts to deflect attention from the real criminals—the producers and sellers. In any case, 78 percent of Pennsylvanians support having a possession law.

Ban Cigarette Vending Machines. Recognizing that minors often obtain cigarettes from vending machines, anti-smoking advocates have proposed to ban such machines in Pennsylvania. At this point, a clear majority (76%) support passage of a ban; females (81%) more so than males (71%).

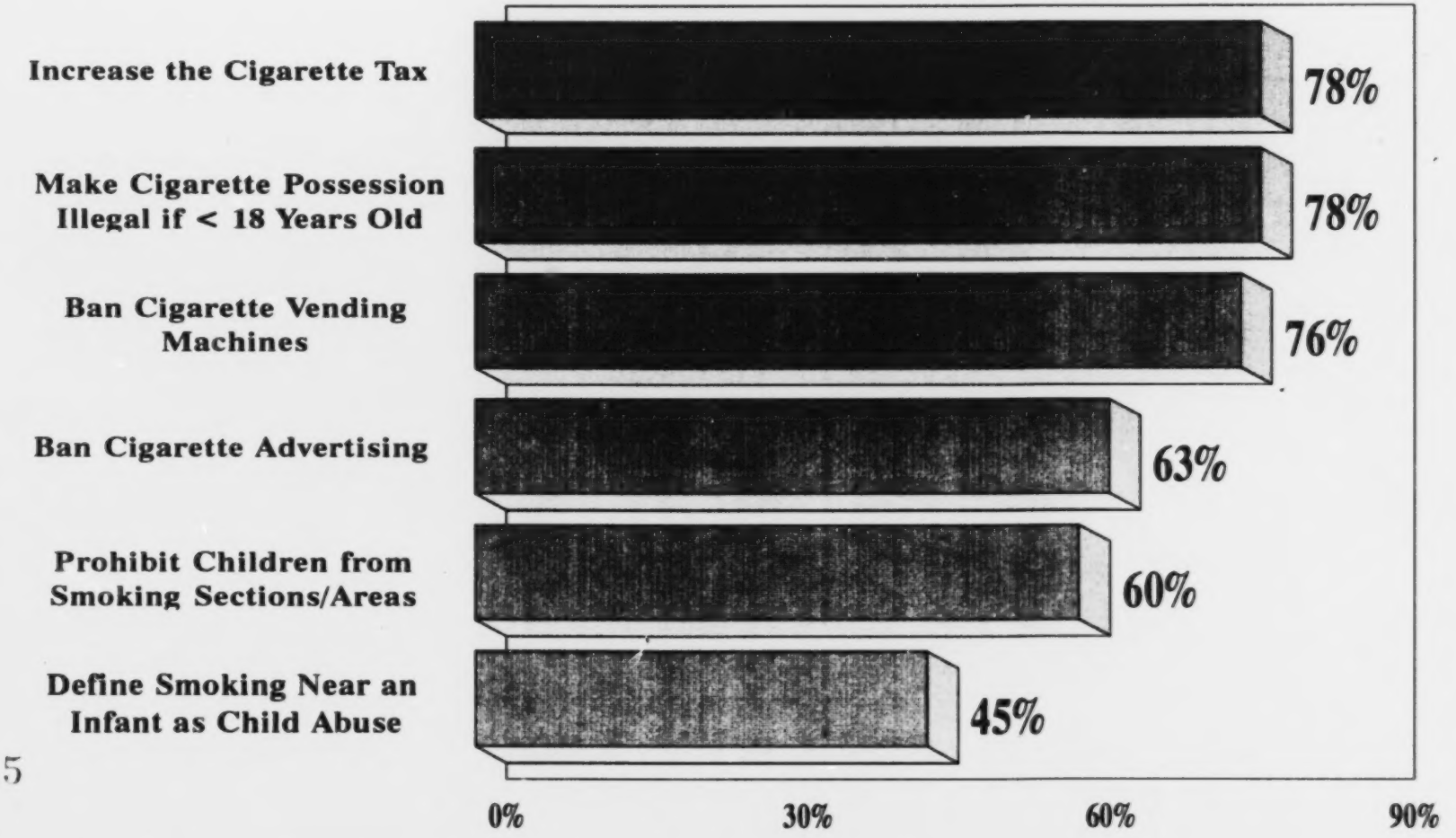
Ban Cigarette Advertising. In 1977, a Gallup Poll found that only 36 percent of the public supported having a ban on cigarette advertising. However, since then, the anti-smoking movement has drawn a great deal of public attention to the "power of advertising," especially in convincing young people to start smoking. Currently, by a nearly 2-to-1 majority, Pennsylvanians favor a ban. Support for the ban is somewhat stronger among females (68%) than males (58%).

Prohibit Children from the Smoking Section of a Restaurant. In March 1993, Rep. Peter Daley proposed a ban on smoking in cars with children. The intent was to reduce the health risks faced by children when they inhale second-hand smoke. Relating to a setting of a similar nature, respondents were asked: " Do you think children should be prohibited from sitting in the smoking section of a restaurant?" Support for prohibition was strongest among the elderly (72%) and Democrats (65%). But perhaps most surprising, by a narrow margin, 48-44 percent, smokers themselves favor a ban.

Define Smoking Near an Infant as Child Abuse. Recognizing the health hazards posed to children exposed to smoking, various courts throughout the country have considered parental smoking behavior to be a deciding factor in custody disputes, and in some instances orders have been issued to prohibit parental smoking in the presence of a child. Furthermore, John Banshaf, Executive Director of Actions on Smoking and Health, has recently argued that "smoking in the presence of a child (is) the most prevalent yet least reported form of child abuse." Further, he says that deliberately exposing minors to a substance which doubles their risk of contracting lung cancer —and may cause them to go into respiratory distress—is inexcusable, and that doctors can no longer stand by idly while their young patients are literally being poisoned by their parents. Despite the apparent radical nature of the idea, 45 percent of Pennsylvanians are willing to define smoking near an infant as child abuse. Among the elderly, the figure jumps to 56 percent, and even among smokers themselves 36 percent view smoking near an infant to be a from of child abuse.

Fig. 2 PROPOSALS TO REDUCE SMOKING

Percentage of Pennsylvanians Who "Favor" Proposal to...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1993

REDUCE SMOKING:
Increase The Cigarette Tax

Question: To provide health insurance for uninsured children, it has been proposed to increase the cigarette tax by ten cents. Do you favor or oppose this idea?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	78%	20%	2%	1672
Rural/Urban				
Rural	80	18	2	368
Urban	78	20	2	1303
Region				
Northwest	79	19	2	170
Southwest	83	14	3	396
Central	73	25	3	363
Northeast	80	18	2	123
Southeast	78	20	2	619
Age				
18 - 34	78	20	1	420
35 - 49	77	21	2	565
50 - 64	79	19	2	362
65 or older	79	16	5	318
Sex				
Male	76	22	2	693
Female	80	17	3	964
Marital Status				
Married	79	19	2	1078
Divorced	73	26	1	141
Separated	78	22	0	44
Widowed	78	16	5	168
Never Married	78	20	2	226
Educational Level				
< High School	74	22	4	199
High School Graduate	77	21	2	925
College Graduate	83	15	2	532
Political Affiliation				
Republican	80	18	2	583
Democrat	82	16	2	662
Independent/Other	72	25	2	83
None	70	27	3	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant	80	19	0	808
Catholic	79	18	3	554
None	73	24	3	302
Children				
Yes - over 18	79	18	3	556
Yes - under 18	80	19	1	678
No	76	23	2	399
Smoking Status				
Smoker	60	38	2	414
Former	81	17	2	446
Never	86	12	2	811

REDUCE SMOKING:
Make Cigarette Possession Illegal If <18

Question: Recently, in Oregon, a law was passed making it illegal for anyone under eighteen to possess cigarettes or any tobacco product. Would you favor or oppose have a similar law in Pennsylvania?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	78%	20%	2%	1671
Rural/Urban				
Rural	78	20	1	368
Urban	78	20	2	1302
Region				
Northwest	76	23	1	170
Southwest	79	20	2	395
Central	79	19	2	364
Northeast	80	18	2	123
Southeast	76	21	3	618
Age				
18 - 34	82	16	2	420
35 - 49	78	21	2	567
50 - 64	73	26	2	362
65 or older	78	18	4	315
Sex				
Male	75	22	2	692
Female	80	18	2	964
Marital Status				
Married	78	19	2	1078
Divorced	73	26	1	142
Separated	77	23	0	44
Widowed	76	18	5	167
Never Married	78	20	3	225
Educational Level				
< High School	80	18	2	198
High School Graduate	81	17	2	927
College Graduate	72	25	3	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican	74	23	3	581
Democrat	80	18	2	662
Independent/Other	77	22	1	84
None	79	18	3	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant	78	19	3	809
Catholic	80	19	1	553
Other/None	74	24	2	301
Children				
Yes - Over 18	76	22	2	555
Yes - Under 18	82	17	2	679
No	74	22	3	398
Smoking Status				
Smoker	74	24	2	415
Former	77	21	2	446
Never	80	18	3	809

REDUCE SMOKING:
Ban Cigarette Vending Machines

Question: Children under the age of 18 are often able to obtain cigarettes from vending machines. A proposal has been made to ban such machines in Pennsylvania. Would you favor such a ban?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	76%	22%	2%	1669
Rural/Urban				
Rural	78	20	2	368
Urban	76	22	2	1300
Region				
Northwest	76	22	2	169
Southwest	78	21	2	396
Central	76	22	2	364
Northeast	80	19	2	123
Southeast	76	22	2	616
Age				
18 - 34	79	19	1	419
35 - 49	74	24	2	566
50 - 64	76	21	3	362
65 or older	78	20	2	315
Sex				
Male	71	26	2	691
Female	81	17	2	963
Marital Status				
Married	75	23	2	1076
Divorced	79	19	2	142
Separated	84	14	2	44
Widowed	78	20	3	166
Never Married	77	19	4	226
Educational Level				
< High School	80	18	2	198
High School Graduate	77	21	2	926
College Graduate	75	24	2	529
Political Affiliation				
Republican	76	23	1	579
Democrat	78	20	2	662
Independent/Other	72	25	4	84
None	77	20	2	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant	78	20	2	808
Catholic	77	22	1	553
Other/None	72	25	4	300
Children				
Yes - Over 18	76	22	2	554
Yes - Under 18	76	22	2	678
No	77	20	3	398
Smoking Status				
Smoker	73	26	1	415
Former	72	26	2	445
Never	81	17	2	808

REDUCE SMOKING:
Ban Cigarette Advertising

Question: Would you favor a law to ban all advertising of cigarettes?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	63%	33%	3%	1675
Rural/Urban				
Rural	64	33	3	368
Urban	63	34	3	1306
Region				
Northwest	61	35	4	170
Southwest	65	30	5	397
Central	60	37	3	364
Northeast	67	31	2	123
Southeast	64	34	2	620
Age				
18 - 34	60	38	2	421
35 - 49	66	32	2	567
50 - 64	64	32	4	362
65 or older	63	31	6	318
Sex				
Male	58	38	4	694
Female	68	29	3	966
Marital Status				
Married	66	32	2	1079
Divorced	54	41	5	143
Separated	67	26	7	44
Widowed	63	29	8	168
Never Married	60	38	3	226
Educational Level				
< High School	67	28	5	199
High School Graduate	61	36	3	928
College Graduate	66	31	3	532
Political Affiliation				
Republican	64	33	3	583
Democrat	66	31	3	663
Independent/Other	56	39	5	84
None	59	37	4	301
Religious Preference				
Protestant	65	31	3	810
Catholic	62	34	3	555
Other/None	60	36	4	302
Children				
Yes - Over 18	65	32	4	557
Yes - Under 18	66	31	3	680
No	57	39	4	399
Smoking Status				
Smoker	55	42	4	417
Former	66	30	4	446
Never	66	31	3	811

REDUCE SMOKING:
Prohibit Children From Smoking Sections

Question: According to a recent government report, cigarette smoke inhaled by a non-smoker is a health hazard. Do you think children should be prohibited from sitting in the smoking section of a restaurant?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	60%	34%	6%	1671
Rural/Urban				
Rural	61	34	5	367
Urban	60	34	6	1303
Region				
Northwest	59	35	6	169
Southwest	65	30	5	397
Central	55	40	5	364
Northeast	68	28	3	123
Southeast	59	34	7	617
Age				
18 - 34	55	42	3	419
35 - 49	58	37	5	567
50 - 64	61	31	8	359
65 or older	72	21	7	319
Sex				
Male	56	38	6	693
Female	64	30	6	963
Marital Status				
Married	60	35	5	1076
Divorced	61	32	6	142
Separated	60	31	9	43
Widowed	70	23	8	168
Never Married	57	39	4	226
Educational Level				
< High School	69	27	4	199
High School Graduate	60	33	7	924
College Graduate	58	38	4	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican	57	38	5	581
Democrat	65	29	6	662
Independent/Other	58	38	5	84
None	58	36	6	299
Religious Preference				
Protestant	60	35	6	809
Catholic	62	33	5	552
Other/None	57	35	8	302
Children				
Yes - Over 18	63	29	8	554
Yes - Under 18	58	37	4	679
No	60	36	4	398
Smoking Status				
Smoker	48	44	8	416
Former	61	32	6	444
Never	66	30	4	809

REDUCE SMOKING:
Define Smoking Near Infant As Child Abuse

Question: Some health authorities consider smoking in the presence of an infant to be a form of child abuse. Do you agree or disagree?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	45%	50%	4%	1671
Rural/Urban				
Rural	47	48	5	367
Urban	45	51	4	1303
Region				
Northwest	45	50	5	170
Southwest	50	47	3	395
Central	42	52	6	363
Northeast	48	49	3	123
Southeast	44	52	4	619
Age				
18 - 34	48	50	2	420
35 - 49	38	58	5	566
50 - 64	45	50	4	360
65 or older	56	37	7	318
Sex				
Male	44	52	4	693
Female	47	48	5	963
Marital Status				
Married	44	52	4	1077
Divorced	38	58	4	140
Separated	48	45	7	44
Widowed	53	40	8	168
Never Married	52	45	3	226
Educational Level				
< High School	52	42	7	199
High School Graduate	44	51	5	926
College Graduate	46	51	3	529
Political Affiliation				
Republican	41	54	5	582
Democrat	49	47	4	662
Independent/Other	39	57	4	84
None	47	49	3	299
Religious Preference				
Protestant	45	50	4	810
Catholic	48	49	3	552
Other/None	41	53	7	301
Children				
Yes - Over 18	47	47	6	555
Yes - Under 18	40	55	4	678
No.	51	46	4	398
Smoking Status				
Smoker	36	61	3	415
Former	46	49	5	443
Never	50	46	5	811

UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES/UNWANTED BIRTHS

Based upon data reported by The National Center for Health Statistics (1990), it is estimated that 35 percent of births are "unintended." Of those, about 30 percent are "unwanted," while the other 70 percent are "mistimed"—wanted at a later time. Among the less fortunate of American society, the figures are even more dismal: it is estimated that among women whose income is below the poverty level, 21 percent of their children were unwanted at birth; and, among Black women living below poverty, the figure jumps to 35 percent.

Obviously, unintended pregnancies and unwanted births predispose millions of children to a troubled way of life: lowered self-esteem, higher rates of deviance, greater difficulty of social bonding and commitment. Thus, efforts to reduce unintended pregnancies and to alleviate the difficulties of unwanted births warrant serious deliberation by the Commonwealth.

Make Adoption of Foster Children Easier. Overwhelmingly (95%), Pennsylvanians favor legislation that would make it easier for children in foster care to be adopted and they express concern about children drifting in foster care—especially children who themselves want to be adopted. Insofar, as many children in foster care are racial minorities, the public also feels that steps should be taken to facilitate transracial adoptions. When asked: "Do you favor or oppose making it easier for a couple to adopt a child of another race?" nearly 86 percent of the respondents favored the proposal. In fact, among young adults the figure jumped to 92 percent.

Increase Male Teen Awareness of Fatherhood Obligations. Overwhelmingly (94%), Pennsylvanians support the proposal of offering special programs to educate high school boys about the legal and financial obligations they face if they get a girl pregnant. As one respondent noted: "I think it is time to shift the focus to the boys. Too many of them do not realize the full consequences they face. We have to stop simply blaming young girls and start creating a fear of pregnancy among young boys."

Increase Public School Emphasis on Abstinence. Many (79%) Pennsylvanians feel that public schools should emphasize abstinence; however, they do so for different reasons. Some feel that it is necessary in order to restore the moral fabric of the society, while others advocate it as a way to help delay the declining age at which youth are initiating sexual activity.

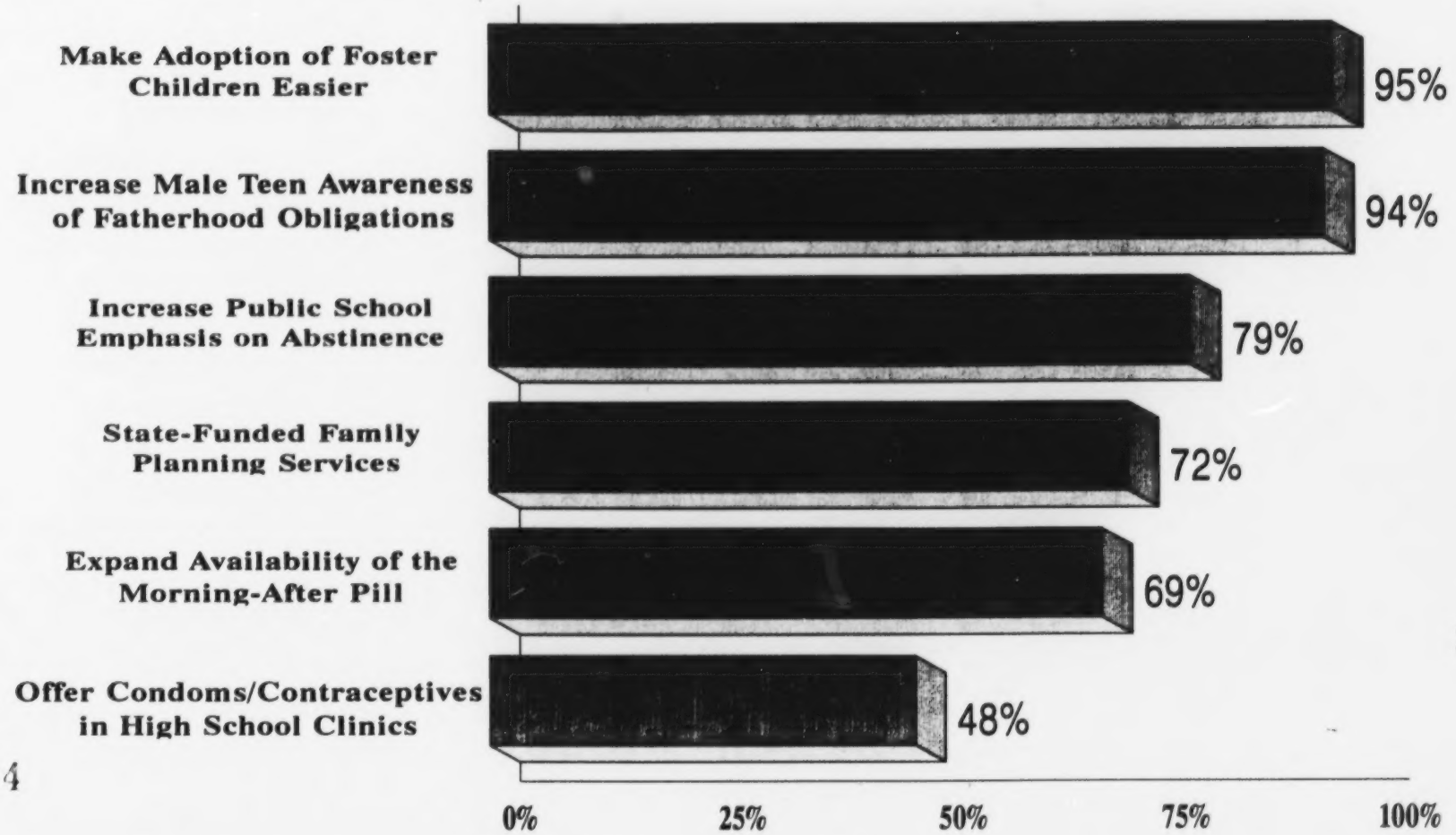
State-Funded Family Planning Services. A clear majority (72%) of Pennsylvanians support legislation proposed by Rep. Karen Ritter and others "to use state funds to provide family planning services for low income persons." Support is somewhat stronger among Democrats (76%) than among Republicans (64%); and, more so, among young adults (77%) than the elderly (62%).

Expand Availability of the Morning-After Pill. Over the past year, various family planning advocates have suggested that greater public awareness and availability of so-called "morning-after pills" would reduce the need for aborting unintended pregnancies. Thus, respondents were asked: "There is a morning-after pill that will prevent a woman from getting pregnant if it is taken within three days after intercourse. Do you think the pill should or should not be available in family planning clinics?" Overall, 69 percent feel that it should be available, while 24 percent say it should not be.

Offer Condoms/Contraceptives in High School Clinics. Pennsylvanians are split on whether or not condoms and other contraceptives should be available in public high school clinics. Overall, 48 percent favor the idea, while 48 percent oppose it. However, on this proposal there are identifiable generational and political differences: 64 percent of young adults contrasted with only 34 percent of the elderly favor the idea; and, while a slim majority (52%) of Democrats favor it, only 39 percent of Republicans do so.

Fig. 3 REDUCE UNINTENDED PREGNANCY/BIRTH PROPOSALS

Percentage of Pennsylvanians Who "Favor" Proposal to...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1993

UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES/UNWANTED BIRTHS: Easier Adoption Of Children In Foster Care

Question: Do you favor or oppose making it easier for an unwed teenage mother to give up a child for adoption?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	95%	3%	2%	1681
Rural/Urban				
Rural	94	3	3	368
Urban	95	3	2	1311
Region				
Northwest	96	1	2	171
Southwest	93	4	3	400
Central	94	4	2	363
Northeast	93	4	3	123
Southeast	96	2	1	622
Age				
18 - 34	96	2	2	420
35 - 49	95	3	2	566
50 - 64	96	1	3	364
65 or older	91	6	3	321
Sex				
Male	94	4	2	697
Female	95	2	3	968
Marital Status				
Married	95	3	2	1081
Divorced	93	4	4	142
Separated	93	5	2	44
Widowed	94	3	4	168
Never Married	96	3	1	226
Educational Level				
< High School	92	4	4	201
High School Graduate	96	3	2	927
College Graduate	95	3	2	532
Political Affiliation				
Republican	94	3	3	584
Democrat	95	3	2	664
Independent/Other	90	6	4	84
None	96	2	2	302
Religious Preference				
Protestant	94	3	3	811
Catholic	96	3	1	558
Other/None	94	3	3	302
Children				
Yes - Over 18	93	4	3	561
Yes - Under 18	96	2	2	678
No	95	2	3	400

UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES/UNWANTED BIRTHS: Increase Male Awareness Of Fatherhood Obligations

Question: There also has been discussion about the role of public schools in helping reduce teenage pregnancies. Do you favor or oppose the following proposals: That public schools offer special programs to educate high school boys about the legal and financial obligations they face if they get a girl pregnant.

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	94%	5%	1%	1663
Rural/Urban				
Rural	94	4	1	367
Urban	94	5	2	1295
Region				
Northwest	93	5	2	170
Southwest	92	6	2	394
Central	96	3	2	360
Northeast	96	4	0	123
Southeast	94	5	1	615
Age				
18 - 34	94	5	0	420
35 - 49	95	4	1	565
50 - 64	95	4	1	360
65 or older	89	7	4	310
Sex				
Male	93	6	2	687
Female	95	4	2	961
Marital Status				
Married	94	4	2	1074
Divorced	95	3	2	143
Separated	88	12	0	44
Widowed	95	4	1	165
Never Married	93	7	0	225
Educational Level				
< High School	92	5	4	197
High School Graduate	94	4	1	923
College Graduate	95	5	1	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican	93	6	1	579
Democrat	94	4	2	662
Independent/Other	94	5	1	83
None	95	3	1	299
Religious Preference				
Protestant	94	5	1	807
Catholic	95	4	1	552
Other/None	91	6	3	296
Children				
Yes - Over 18	92	6	2	553
Yes - Under 18	94	4	1	678
No	95	4	1	393

UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES/UNWANTED BIRTHS: Increase Emphasis On Abstinence

Question: There also has been discussion about the role of public schools in helping reduce teenage pregnancies. Do you favor or oppose the following proposals: That public schools emphasize sexual abstinence before marriage.

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	79%	18%	3%	1661
Rural/Urban				
Rural	79	17	4	366
Urban	79	19	3	1294
Region				
Northwest	80	15	5	169
Southwest	80	17	3	394
Central	80	18	2	359
Northeast	79	18	3	123
Southeast	78	20	3	615
Age				
18 - 34	75	24	2	420
35 - 49	83	14	3	564
50 - 64	79	17	4	359
65 or older	77	19	4	310
Sex				
Male	77	20	3	687
Female	80	17	3	959
Marital Status				
Married	80	17	3	1073
Divorced	78	20	2	142
Separated	79	16	5	44
Widowed	78	16	6	165
Never Married	73	26	2	225
Educational Level				
< High School	73	21	7	195
High School Graduate	81	17	2	923
College Graduate	79	19	3	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican	82	16	2	579
Democrat	78	19	3	662
Independent/Other	78	18	4	83
None	77	21	2	297
Religious Preference				
Protestant	80	18	2	806
Catholic	82	16	2	551
Other/None	70	25	6	296
Children				
Yes - Over 18	77	19	4	551
Yes - Under 18	82	16	2	677
No	77	21	2	394

UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES/UNWANTED BIRTHS:
State-funded Family Planning Services

Question: Do you favor or oppose using state funds to provide family planning services for low income persons?*

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	72%	25%	3%	1686
Rural/Urban				
Rural	70	28	2	368
Urban	72	24	4	1316
Region				
Northwest	74	23	3	171
Southwest	74	23	2	402
Central	67	30	3	364
Northeast	72	26	2	123
Southeast	72	23	5	624
Age				
18 - 34	77	21	2	419
35 - 49	73	24	3	567
50 - 64	72	24	4	364
65 or older	62	32	7	325
Sex				
Male	70	28	2	699
Female	74	22	4	971
Marital Status				
Married	71	26	3	1082
Divorced	78	20	1	143
Separated	72	20	8	44
Widowed	66	28	5	170
Never Married	76	20	4	225
Educational Level				
< High School	70	25	5	200
High School Graduate	71	26	4	931
College Graduate	75	23	2	532
Political Affiliation				
Republican	64	32	4	585
Democrat	76	21	2	665
Independent/Other	73	23	3	84
None	76	20	4	302
Religious Preference				
Protestant	72	24	4	814
Catholic	70	28	3	557
Other/None	75	22	3	304
Children				
Yes - Over 18	71	26	3	562
Yes - Under 18	74	24	2	679
No	72	24	5	400

* Question was paid for by Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Pennsylvania.

UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES/UNWANTED BIRTHS: Expand Availability Of Morning After Pill

Question: There is a morning-after pill that will prevent a woman from getting pregnant if taken within three days after intercourse. Do you think the pill should or should not be available in family planning clinics?

RESPONSES:	Should	Shouldn't	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	69%	24%	6%	1679
Rural/Urban				
Rural	68	24	9	366
Urban	70	25	6	1311
Region				
Northwest	72	20	7	170
Southwest	66	27	7	398
Central	68	24	8	364
Northeast	73	23	4	123
Southeast	70	24	5	622
Age				
18 - 34	66	27	6	419
35 - 49	68	26	6	566
50 - 64	74	20	6	363
65 or older	70	24	6	320
Sex				
Male	71	24	6	697
Female	68	25	7	966
Marital Status				
Married	67	27	6	1078
Divorced	78	14	8	143
Separated	73	16	11	43
Widowed	69	23	8	169
Never Married	73	21	6	225
Educational Level				
< High School	71	20	8	200
High School Graduate	68	25	7	927
College Graduate	71	25	4	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican	65	29	6	585
Democrat	73	20	7	660
Independent/Other	68	28	3	84
None	72	23	6	301
Religious Preference				
Protestant	70	23	7	810
Catholic	66	28	6	555
Other/None	74	21	4	303
Children				
Yes - Over 18	72	22	6	559
Yes - Under 18	65	28	7	678
No	73	22	6	398

UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES/UNWANTED BIRTHS: Offer Contraceptives In High School Clinics

Question: There also has been discussion about the role of public schools in helping reduce teenage pregnancies. Do you favor or oppose the following proposals: That condoms and other contraceptives be provided in the public high school.

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	48%	48%	4%	1660
Rural/Urban				
Rural	46	50	4	368
Urban	48	48	4	1291
Region				
Northwest	48	47	5	170
Southwest	46	50	4	392
Central	43	52	5	361
Northeast	55	43	2	123
Southeast	50	46	4	613
Age				
18 - 34	64	34	2	420
35 - 49	50	47	3	565
50 - 64	39	55	6	360
65 or older	34	61	6	308
Sex				
Male	45	52	3	686
Female	51	44	5	959
Marital Status				
Married	45	52	4	1072
Divorced	59	37	3	143
Separated	41	51	7	44
Widowed	38	54	8	165
Never Married	65	32	2	225
Educational Level				
< High School	43	52	5	197
High School Graduate	48	49	4	923
College Graduate	51	45	4	528
Political Affiliation				
Republican	39	57	4	579
Democrat	52	44	4	661
Independent/Other	49	48	4	83
None	58	38	4	299
Religious Preference				
Protestant	46	50	4	807
Catholic	48	49	3	551
Other/None	54	40	6	294
Children				
Yes - Over 18	41	54	5	551
Yes - Under 18	48	49	3	678
No	59	37	4	392

EDUCATION

Fund Additional Head Start Classes. President Clinton's strong support for expansion of Head Start has been met with recent criticism that its effectiveness has been exaggerated. Nonetheless, a strong majority (76%) of Pennsylvanians favor the use of state funding to provide more Head Start classes. Support is strong across all groups, but more so among young adults (84%) and Democrats (81%).

Raise the Legal Drop-Out Age. Currently, in Pennsylvania, students can drop out of school with parental permission at age sixteen. However, with the increasing need for an educated workforce, some advocates feel that the age should be raised. Two thirds of Pennsylvanians agree; 61 percent feel that the drop-out age should be at least 18. Support for the idea is stronger among females (74%) than males (60%); and, interestingly, it is much stronger among high school dropouts (73%) than among college graduates (58%).

Require Financially-Able Parents to Pay for College. In January 1993, Rep. Matthew Ryan introduced legislation that would require financially-able parents to pay for their children's college education. In his words: "Now is not the time to let parents walk away from their responsibilities to their offspring." More than two-thirds (68%) of Pennsylvanians agree with Rep. Ryan's point of view. Among the elderly the figure jumps to 85 percent, but among young adults it drops to 59 percent.

Lower the Age of Required Schooling. Though most children actually start school earlier, Pennsylvania children are not required to enroll in school until the age of eight. A strong majority (74%) of Pennsylvanians want the age lowered. Support for the change is especially strong among young adults. Many (38%) feel that five should be the required age.

Fund Public Education Through the State Income Tax Rather than the Property Tax. In the 1991 Public Mind Survey, respondents were asked, "Do you think public education in Pennsylvania should be paid for mostly through local property tax or by the state income tax?" At the time, respondents favored use of the state income tax rather than the property tax (57% versus 24%). This year, nearly identical results were obtained (56% versus 24%). Such a consistent gridlock of opinion on the issue of funding public education underscores a serious need for political leadership in this area. Shifting public opinion toward a consensus is truly an important challenge for political and educational leaders.

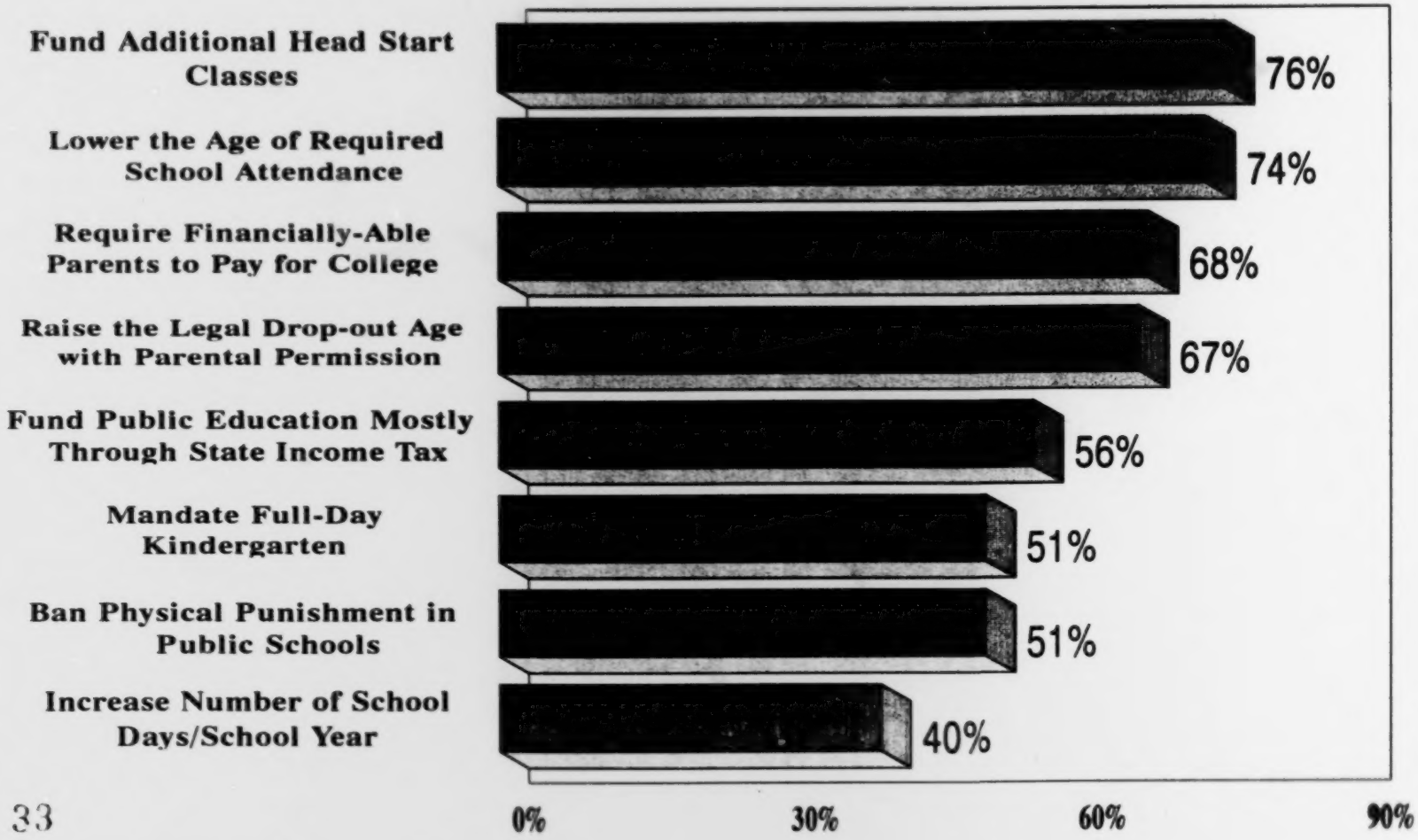
Mandate Full-Day Kindergarten. Pennsylvanians are split (51% favor, 45% oppose, 4% don't know) on the proposal that school districts be required to provide full-day kindergarten classes for parents who want to send their children. Opinion on the proposal is linked to political affiliation: 58 percent of Democrats, but only 44 percent of Republicans favor the proposal.

Ban Physical Punishment in Public Schools. The 1991 Public Mind survey also asked Pennsylvanians about a proposal to ban corporal punishment in public schools. As with the issue of public school funding, there continues to be a lack of consensus. The public remains split: 51 percent favor a ban, 45 percent oppose, and 4 percent remain undecided. Proponents of a ban tend to be young adults (58%) and mothers of school aged children.

Increase the Number of School Days/School Year. Compared with other states, Pennsylvania is an average state in terms of the length of its school year (180 days). However, many educators argue that if Americans students are to be adequately prepared to compete in the global economy, it will be necessary for them to spend more days in school. For example, in Japan students go 220 days/year. At this point, Pennsylvanians are unwilling to lengthen the school year. In fact, since the 1991 Public Mind Survey, opposition increased slightly from 53 to 56 percent. Opposition is particularly strong (64%) in the rural areas of the Commonwealth.

Fig. 4 PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE EDUCATION

Percentage of Pennsylvanians "Favoring" Proposal to...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1993

EDUCATION:
Fund Additional Head Start Classes

Question: Head Start is a preschool program for children 3 to 5. However, due to Federal cutbacks it is not available to all children. Would you favor or oppose the use of state funding to provide more Head Start programs?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	76%	20%	3%	1649
Rural/Urban				
Rural	73	23	4	365
Urban	77	20	3	1283
Region				
Northwest	77	19	4	167
Southwest	76	21	3	393
Central	74	22	4	361
Northeast	78	19	3	123
Southeast	77	20	3	604
Age				
18 - 34	84	14	2	416
35 - 49	75	21	4	561
50 - 64	74	23	3	359
65 or older	70	24	6	306
Sex				
Male	73	24	3	685
Female	79	17	4	949
Marital Status				
Married	74	23	3	1068
Divorced	83	14	3	140
Separated	73	19	8	44
Widowed	74	22	4	162
Never Married	87	11	2	223
Educational Level				
< High School	73	21	6	195
High School Graduate	77	20	3	917
College Graduate	77	20	3	524
Political Affiliation				
Republican	71	27	3	575
Democrat	81	16	3	655
Independent/Other	74	20	5	82
None	79	16	5	296
Religious Preference				
Protestant	76	20	4	797
Catholic	78	20	2	552
Other/None	74	21	5	292
Children				
Yes - Over 18	75	21	4	546
Yes - Under 18	76	21	3	673
No	80	17	3	391

EDUCATION:
Raise Drop-out Age

Question: Currently, in Pennsylvania, a student can drop out of school with parental permission at age 16. Do you think that age should be raised? If YES, ...What do you think the dropout age should be? _17yrs _18yrs _19+yrs

RESPONSES:	No	17	18	19+	Respondents
Statewide	33%	9%	52%	6%	1653
Rural/Urban					
Rural	28	9	57	5	364
Urban	34	9	50	7	1288
Region					
Northwest	28	9	57	7	170
Southwest	25	9	58	7	391
Central	35	10	46	8	359
Northeast	28	10	55	7	121
Southeast	38	8	49	4	611
Age					
18 - 34	29	8	55	8	418
35 - 49	30	10	54	7	565
50 - 64	37	12	47	5	354
65 or older	37	6	51	6	309
Sex					
Male	40	9	46	5	685
Female	27	9	57	8	953
Marital Status					
Married	33	8	53	6	1068
Divorced	25	15	52	8	141
Separated	32	7	56	6	44
Widowed	32	11	52	6	160
Never Married	35	10	47	8	226
Educational Level					
< High School	27	13	55	5	193
High School Graduate	28	9	55	8	917
College Graduate	42	7	46	5	528
Political Affiliation					
Republican	36	7	53	4	576
Democrat	29	11	52	8	655
Independent/Other	36	5	49	10	82
None	30	10	53	7	297
Religious Preference					
Protestant	33	8	53	6	801
Catholic	27	10	55	7	546
Other/None	43	7	44	6	298
Children					
Yes - Over 18	33	10	51	5	541
Yes - Under 18	31	7	54	8	677
No	35	10	50	5	396

EDUCATION:
Require Parents To Pay For College

Question: Do you think parents who are financially able should be required to pay for their child's college education?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	68%	28%	4%	1667
Rural/Urban				
Rural	68	27	5	368
Urban	68	28	4	1298
Region				
Northwest	69	28	4	169
Southwest	78	19	3	396
Central	61	32	7	362
Northeast	74	26	0	123
Southeast	65	31	4	616
Age				
18 - 34	59	35	6	420
35 - 49	64	32	4	566
50 - 64	71	24	6	360
65 or older	84	14	2	314
Sex				
Male	65	31	4	692
Female	71	24	5	960
Marital Status				
Married	66	30	4	1076
Divorced	74	22	5	142
Separated	64	22	14	44
Widowed	89	11	0	165
Never Married	60	34	5	226
Educational Level				
< High School	79	16	5	198
High School Graduate	72	24	4	924
College Graduate	58	38	4	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican	63	33	4	580
Democrat	72	24	4	662
Independent/Other	52	37	10	83
None	73	23	4	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant	68	27	5	806
Catholic	72	25	3	553
Other/None	61	35	4	300
Children				
Yes - Over 18	76	20	4	533
Yes - Under 18	64	31	5	680
No	65	31	4	396

EDUCATION:
Lower Age Of Required School Attendance

Question: Currently in Pennsylvania a child is required to start school by age 8. Do you think the age should be lowered? If Yes, what age?
_age 7, _age 6, _age 5 or less.

RESPONSES:	No	7 yrs	6 yrs	5 yrs	# of Respondents
Statewide	26%	6%	43%	25%	1660
Rural/Urban					
Rural	29	5	43	22	365
Urban	25	6	43	26	1294
Region					
Northwest	35	5	35	25	168
Southwest	24	5	48	23	394
Central	31	5	42	22	361
Northeast	20	6	48	26	120
Southeast	23	6	42	28	616
Age					
18 - 34	22	4	36	38	417
35 - 49	32	4	41	23	566
50 - 64	26	6	45	22	354
65 or older	21	9	56	14	316
Sex					
Male	29	6	42	23	688
Female	24	5	44	27	957
Marital Status					
Married	29	6	42	23	1068
Divorced	24	4	42	30	143
Separated	26	2	36	36	43
Widowed	19	10	55	15	168
Never Married	17	4	40	39	224
Educational Level					
< High School	23	6	47	24	198
High School Graduate	25	6	44	25	922
College Graduate	29	5	41	26	525
Political Affiliation					
Republican	32	5	44	18	577
Democrat	22	6	46	26	661
Independent/Other	28	4	41	28	82
None	22	5	37	36	297
Religious Preference					
Protestant	26	5	45	24	804
Catholic	26	7	42	24	550
Other/None	28	5	39	29	298
Children					
Yes - Over 18	26	5	50	18	550
Yes - Under 18	29	4	38	28	678
No.	20	7	43	30	393

EDUCATION:
Fund Public Education With Income Tax

Question: Do you think public education in Pennsylvania should be paid for mostly through local property taxes or by the state income tax?

RESPONSES:	Property	State	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	24%	56%	20%	1639
Rural/Urban				
Rural	23	55	22	361
Urban	24	56	20	1277
Region				
Northwest	23	57	20	167
Southwest	23	55	22	389
Central	24	58	19	359
Northeast	17	65	18	121
Southeast	26	53	21	602
Age				
18 - 34	26	57	17	416
35 - 49	25	56	19	557
50 - 64	23	55	22	355
65 or over	20	55	25	304
Sex				
Male	24	59	16	681
Female	24	52	24	944
Marital Status				
Married	26	55	20	1059
Divorced	19	62	19	137
Separated	17	61	21	43
Widowed	16	54	30	163
Never Married	25	56	20	224
Educational Level				
< High School	17	53	30	194
High School Graduate	22	58	20	909
College Graduate	30	53	18	522
Political Affiliation				
Republican	27	56	17	570
Democrat	22	58	19	654
Independent/Other	36	45	20	80
None	19	54	27	294
Religious Preference				
Protestant	24	54	22	796
Catholic	24	59	16	549
Other/None	22	54	24	287
Children				
Yes - Over 18	22	55	23	542
Yes - Under 18	25	56	19	669
No	25	55	20	391

EDUCATION:
Mandate Full-day Kindergarten

Question: Do you think school districts should provide full-day kindergarten classes for five year-olds?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	51%	45%	4%	1670
Rural/Urban				
Rural	47	49	4	368
Urban	52	43	5	1301
Region				
Northwest	49	48	3	170
Southwest	52	45	3	397
Central	41	54	5	363
Northeast	50	42	8	122
Southeast	57	39	5	617
Age				
18 - 34	57	39	4	419
35 - 49	47	48	4	566
50 - 64	48	48	4	361
65 or older	53	41	6	317
Sex				
Male	50	45	5	694
Female	52	44	4	961
Marital Status				
Married	48	48	4	1075
Divorced	54	39	7	143
Separated	52	42	7	44
Widowed	52	42	6	168
Never Married	61	33	6	226
Educational Level				
< High School	53	44	3	199
High School Graduate	51	44	4	926
College Graduate	50	45	6	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican	44	51	5	581
Democrat	58	38	4	662
Independent/Other	48	46	6	83
None	50	45	4	301
Religious Preference				
Protestant	48	48	5	808
Catholic	57	41	2	554
Other/None	48	44	8	300
Children				
Yes - Over 18	51	44	5	554
Yes - Under 18	49	48	3	680
No	54	39	6	397

EDUCATION:
Ban Physical Punishment In Public Schools

Question: Some people feel there should be a law to stop paddling and other forms of physical punishment in public schools. Would you favor or oppose such a law?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	51%	45%	4%	1659
Rural/Urban				
Rural	46	49	4	368
Urban	52	44	4	1290
Region				
Northwest	50	46	4	169
Southwest	46	50	4	394
Central	43	50	6	361
Northeast	48	49	2	123
Southeast	58	38	4	611
Age				
18 - 34	58	38	3	419
35 - 49	52	44	3	564
50 - 64	43	52	5	360
65 or older	45	49	6	309
Sex				
Male	48	50	3	689
Female	53	41	6	955
Marital Status				
Married	49	47	4	1072
Divorced	55	38	7	142
Separated	58	42	0	44
Widowed	43	50	7	163
Never Married	59	38	3	224
Educational Level				
< High School	48	46	6	196
High School Graduate	50	46	4	919
College Graduate	53	43	4	529
Political Affiliation				
Republican	47	49	4	576
Democrat	52	45	3	660
Independent/Other	46	48	6	83
None	55	38	7	298
Religious Preference				
Protestant	46	49	5	804
Catholic	56	41	3	552
Other/None	54	41	5	295
Children				
Yes - Over 18	43	51	5	547
Yes - Under 18	54	42	3	679
No	54	41	4	394

EDUCATION:
Increase Number Of School Days

Question: Would you favor or oppose increasing the number of days children are required to attend school each year?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	40%	56%	4%	1665
Rural/Urban				
Rural	34	64	3	367
Urban	42	53	4	1297
Region				
Northwest	39	56	5	168
Southwest	38	60	3	397
Central	36	60	4	363
Northeast	36	59	5	123
Southeast	45	50	4	613
Age				
18 - 34	36	60	4	420
35 - 49	39	58	3	565
50 - 64	42	52	6	358
65 or older	46	50	4	315
Sex				
Male	47	49	4	692
Female	34	62	4	958
Marital Status				
Married	40	56	4	1075
Divorced	38	59	3	141
Separated	42	53	5	44
Widowed	38	54	7	165
Never Married	45	51	4	226
Educational Level				
< High School	38	57	5	197
High School Graduate	36	60	3	923
College Graduate	47	47	5	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican	40	55	5	576
Democrat	42	54	4	663
Independent/Other	45	52	4	83
None	34	63	3	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant	39	57	4	806
Catholic	41	56	3	553
Other/None	43	53	5	298
Children				
Yes - Over 18	42	54	4	554
Yes - Under 18	36	61	3	678
No	44	51	5	394

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

Required Vaccination of Pre-Schoolers. Many vaccinations should be given when a child is only a few months old, yet it is estimated that only half of children under two are properly immunized. In February, a New York judge ruled that a father's refusal to allow his 23-month-old daughter to be vaccinated against measles violated child neglect laws. The case reflected growing public sentiment that the requirement of vaccination should apply not only to school children, but also to pre-school children. Among Pennsylvanians, 97 percent agree.

Allow Use of Sick Leave to Care for a Sick Child. The proposed Family and Medical Leave Act establishes minimum job protection standards for workers who need to take an unpaid leave of absence from work to care for a seriously ill child. However, some companies already go a step further and allow employees to utilize their sick leave to care for a sick child. Overwhelmingly (92%), Pennsylvanians support that practice. As one single mother noted, "When my kid's sick, I don't feel that my boss has the right to force me to leave 'em."

Require a Child Riding in the Backseat to Wear a Seatbelt. Seatbelts reduce fatalities, serious injuries, and concomitant medical cost. Since 1983, Pennsylvania has required children riding in the front seat of a motor vehicle to be secured by a seatbelt. Most (91%) Pennsylvanians feel that children riding in the backseat should also be required to wear a seatbelt.

Tighten Gunowner Liability if a Child Misuses a Gun. The increasing number of guns has created an increased risk of children getting hold of a gun and misusing it. A strong majority (88%) of Pennsylvanians support legislation that would hold gun owners legally responsible if a child harms himself or others if reasonable steps have not been taken to keep the gun out of the child's possession.

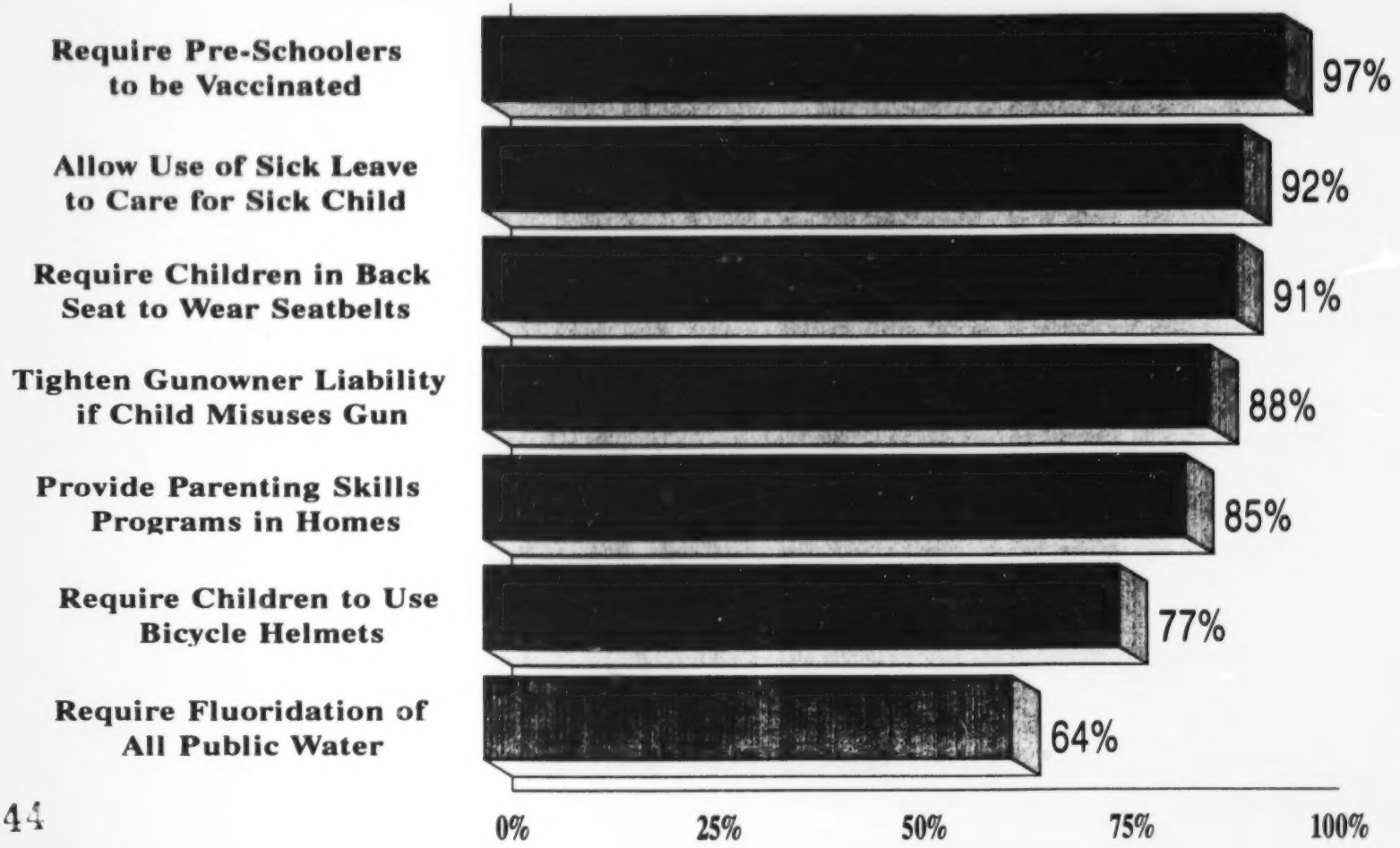
Provide Parenting Skills Programs in Homes. In Hawaii, trained social workers teach parenting skills to at-risk parents who volunteer for help. According to the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and neglect, 54 percent of those in the program were reported abusers—but not repeated after the skill training. Overall, the abuse rate by parents in the program is reported to be less than half the rate for all Hawaiian parents. A strong majority (85%) of Pennsylvanians favor the creation of a similar program in Pennsylvania. Among persons under 35, the figure jumps to 92 percent.

Require Children to Use Bicycle Helmets. Each year about 950 bicyclists die, and thousands suffer head trauma injuries that could be prevented if bicyclists wore helmets. Yet, according to the Centers for Disease Control, fewer than 2 percent of children wear helmets. Within the past year, New Jersey and Georgia have passed legislation requiring cyclists or passengers to wear helmets (age 14 in New Jersey, and age 16 in Georgia). Among Pennsylvanians a strong majority (77%) favor similar legislation. In fact, among females support increases to 84 percent. Currently, in Pennsylvania, a pedacycle passenger under the age of five must wear a helmet.

Require Fluoridation of All Public Water. In November 1992, the American Public Health Association issued its annual "Public Health Report Card on Pennsylvania." With regard to the fluoridation of its water supplies, the commonwealth ranks 37th nationwide, that is, in the bottom quartile. During the same time, the Centers for Disease Control issued a report on the importance of fluoride in preventing dental carries among children. Among Pennsylvanians, about only half report that they drink fluoridated water. In fact, in the northern section of the state, the figure drops to about 30 percent. Nonetheless, a clear, though largely a "silent majority" (64%) favor legislation that would mandate the fluoridation of all public water supplies. Support runs strongest among Catholics (71%) and Democrats (69%). The vocal minority (24%) who oppose fluoridation are more apt to be political independents (36%). About 12 percent of Pennsylvanians remain undecided about the matter of fluoridation.

Fig. 5 PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

Percentage of Pennsylvanians Who "Favor" Proposal to...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1993

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Require Pre-schoolers To Be Vaccinated

Question: Do you favor or oppose the idea of requiring every child to be immunized or vaccinated before entering preschool or a child care program?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	97%	3%	1%	1677
Rural/Urban				
Rural	96	3	0	365
Urban	97	2	1	1311
Region				
Northwest	98	1	1	169
Southwest	97	3	0	399
Central	95	4	1	364
Northeast	96	3	1	124
Southeast	97	2	1	620
Age				
18 - 34	97	3	0	416
35 - 49	96	3	1	567
50 - 64	98	1	1	364
65 or older	95	4	1	321
Sex				
Male	97	3	1	697
Female	97	2	1	965
Marital Status				
Married	97	2	1	1080
Divorced	96	4	0	140
Separated	93	2	5	44
Widowed	98	2	1	169
Never Married	96	3	1	225
Educational Level				
< High School	96	3	1	198
High School Graduate	97	2	1	928
College Graduate	96	3	0	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican	97	3	0	583
Democrat	98	2	0	663
Independent/Other	90	8	2	83
None	96	2	2	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant	97	2	1	813
Catholic	98	2	0	552
Other/None	93	5	2	303
Children				
Yes - Over 18	98	1	1	560
Yes - Under 18	96	3	1	679
No	95	4	1	398

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Allow Use Of Sick Leave To Care For Sick Child

Question: Do you feel that employees should be allowed to use their sick leave to care for a sick child?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	92%	6%	2%	1679
Rural/Urban				
Rural	91	6	3	366
Urban	92	6	2	1312
Region				
Northwest	90	7	3	171
Southwest	94	4	2	399
Central	88	8	4	362
Northeast	95	5	0	124
Southeast	93	5	2	622
Age				
18 - 34	95	4	1	420
35 - 49	93	5	2	566
50 - 64	91	7	2	362
65 or older	87	8	4	322
Sex				
Male	90	7	3	698
Female	94	4	2	966
Marital Status				
Married	92	5	2	1081
Divorced	92	6	2	142
Separated	93	7	0	44
Widowed	91	5	4	168
Never Married	90	8	2	225
Educational Level				
< High School	92	4	3	200
High School Graduate	92	5	2	928
College Graduate	91	6	2	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican	90	8	3	586
Democrat	94	4	2	661
Independent/Other	94	5	1	84
None	92	6	3	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant	92	5	2	812
Catholic	93	5	2	555
Other/None	88	9	3	303
Children				
Yes - Over 18	91	6	2	558
Yes - Under 18	94	4	2	681
No	89	7	3	399

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Require Use Of Seatbelts In Backseat

Question: Some states require children riding in the back seat of a motor vehicle to wear a seat belt. Should Pennsylvania have such a law?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	91%	7%	2%	1679
Rural/Urban				
Rural	88	9	3	368
Urban	92	6	2	1310
Region				
Northwest	91	5	4	171
Southwest	90	9	2	399
Central	89	10	2	363
Northeast	92	6	2	123
Southeast	92	5	3	622
Age				
18 - 34	92	6	1	421
35 - 49	90	8	3	567
50 - 64	88	7	5	362
65 or older	94	6	1	321
Sex				
Male	90	8	2	697
Female	92	6	3	967
Marital Status				
Married	90	7	2	1081
Divorced	89	9	3	142
Separated	82	16	2	44
Widowed	96	2	2	169
Never Married	92	5	3	225
Educational Level				
< High School	89	9	2	200
High School Graduate	91	6	2	929
College Graduate	90	8	2	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican	89	9	2	584
Democrat	92	6	2	662
Independent/Other	91	7	2	84
None	90	7	3	302
Religious Preference				
Protestant	89	8	2	812
Catholic	93	5	2	554
Other/None	90	8	2	304
Children				
Yes - Over 18	91	6	3	560
Yes - Under 18	91	7	2	680
No	92	6	2	399

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Tighten Gunowner Liability

Question: In some states if a child harms anyone with a gun, the gun-owner can be held legally responsible if he has not taken reasonable steps to keep it out of the hands of the child. Should Pennsylvania have a similar law?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	88%	8%	4%	1677
Rural/Urban				
Rural	86	12	3	367
Urban	89	8	4	1309
Region				
Northwest	90	9	1	170
Southwest	88	8	3	399
Central	84	12	4	363
Northeast	88	6	5	124
Southeast	90	7	4	620
Age				
18 - 34	90	9	1	419
35 - 49	85	10	4	567
50 - 64	87	8	5	362
65 or older	92	4	4	321
Sex				
Male	85	11	4	697
Female	91	6	3	965
Marital Status				
Married	87	10	4	1080
Divorced	91	7	2	141
Separated	92	5	2	44
Widowed	93	2	5	168
Never Married	88	9	3	226
Educational Level				
< High School	85	10	5	200
High School Graduate	87	9	4	927
College Graduate	91	7	2	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican	87	10	3	582
Democrat	88	8	3	662
Independent/Other	83	10	7	84
None	90	6	4	302
Religious Preference				
Protestant	88	9	3	811
Catholic	89	8	3	553
Other/None	87	8	5	304
Children				
Yes - Over 18	89	7	4	559
Yes - Under 18	87	10	4	678
No	91	7	2	400

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Provide Parenting Skill Training

Question: In some states, parents who lack parenting skills are offered training by social workers who make home visits. Would you favor or oppose creating a similar program in Pennsylvania?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	85%	12%	3%	1673
Rural/Urban				
Rural	82	14	3	366
Urban	85	12	3	1306
Region				
Northwest	86	9	5	171
Southwest	84	13	3	397
Central	81	16	3	362
Northeast	85	13	2	124
Southeast	87	10	3	618
Age				
18 - 34	92	7	1	418
35 - 49	82	14	4	562
50 - 64	85	14	2	362
65 or older	80	16	5	322
Sex				
Male	82	15	3	696
Female	87	10	3	962
Marital Status				
Married	84	13	3	1077
Divorced	87	10	3	141
Separated	83	14	3	43
Widowed	81	13	6	169
Never Married	92	7	2	224
Educational Level				
< High School	85	11	3	200
High School Graduate	85	12	3	924
College Graduate	85	13	2	529
Political Affiliation				
Republican	81	15	4	586
Democrat	87	11	2	660
Independent/Other	83	15	2	82
None	89	8	3	299
Religious Preference				
Protestant	85	11	4	810
Catholic	85	13	2	552
Other/None	82	14	3	302
Children				
Yes - Over 18	85	12	3	557
Yes - Under 18	84	13	3	677
No	89	9	2	401

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Require Children To Use Bicycle Helmets

Question: To reduce childhood injuries, some states require children on bicycles to wear helmets. Do you favor or oppose passing such a law?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	77%	19%	4%	1674
Rural/Urban				
Rural	76	20	4	363
Urban	77	19	4	1310
Region				
Northwest	77	21	2	168
Southwest	79	18	2	401
Central	71	25	4	361
Northeast	74	18	8	123
Southeast	79	17	4	620
Age				
18 - 34	72	25	3	420
35 - 49	75	20	5	565
50 - 64	79	18	3	359
65 or older	85	11	4	322
Sex				
Male	70	26	5	695
Female	84	14	3	964
Marital Status				
Married	76	21	4	1080
Divorced	78	18	4	141
Separated	67	28	5	43
Widowed	90	8	2	168
Never Married	73	21	6	223
Educational Level				
< High School	82	15	4	199
High School Graduate	78	18	4	925
College Graduate	72	23	4	530
Political Affiliation				
Republican	76	20	4	579
Democrat	78	17	4	662
Independent/Other	66	31	2	84
None	79	18	3	301
Religious Preference				
Protestant	76	20	4	807
Catholic	81	17	3	553
Other/None	72	22	6	305
Children				
Yes - Over 18	81	15	3	558
Yes - Under 18	73	23	4	680
No	77	19	4	397

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Require Fluoridation Of Public Water Supply

Question: Would you favor or oppose a law requiring fluoride to be added to all public water supplies?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	64%	24%	12%	1673
Rural/Urban				
Rural	61	29	10	365
Urban	66	22	12	1307
Region				
Northwest	60	32	8	169
Southwest	62	23	14	398
Central	61	27	12	362
Northeast	68	23	9	124
Southeast	68	21	11	619
Age				
18 - 34	66	24	10	418
35 - 49	64	24	12	566
50 - 64	65	25	10	363
65 or older	64	22	15	318
Sex				
Male	62	27	11	695
Female	67	21	12	963
Marital Status				
Married	64	25	11	1077
Divorced	64	24	12	142
Separated	55	32	13	44
Widowed	62	22	16	167
Never Married	69	22	9	225
Educational Level				
< High School	62	22	16	198
High School Graduate	67	23	10	925
College Graduate	60	27	13	531
Political Affiliation				
Republican	62	26	12	580
Democrat	69	20	11	662
Independent/Other	52	36	12	84
None	64	24	12	300
Religious Preference				
Protestant	62	26	12	808
Catholic	71	21	8	553
Other/None	59	24	17	303
Children				
Yes - Over 18	62	24	14	557
Yes - Under 18	65	24	11	679
No	68	22	10	397

Fig. 6 WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION/RETRAINING

"As you know, a person who is injured while working may get workmen's compensation or disability pay. Do you think a person should continue receiving workmen's compensation if they refuse to be retrained for a new job?"

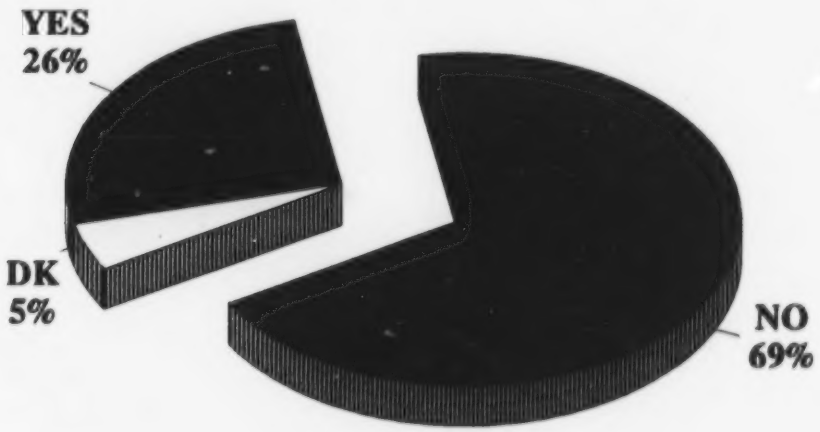
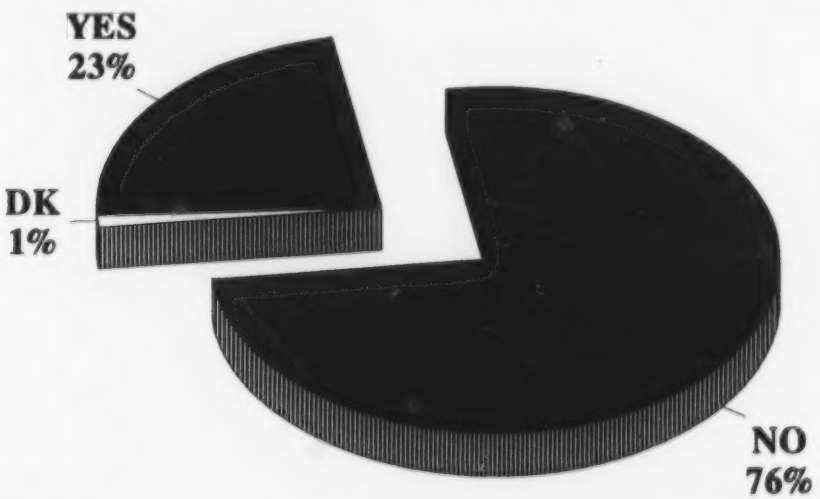


Fig. 7 WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION/"CHEATING"

"Do you personally know anyone who is receiving workmen's compensation or disability pay that you feel is capable of working but refuses?"



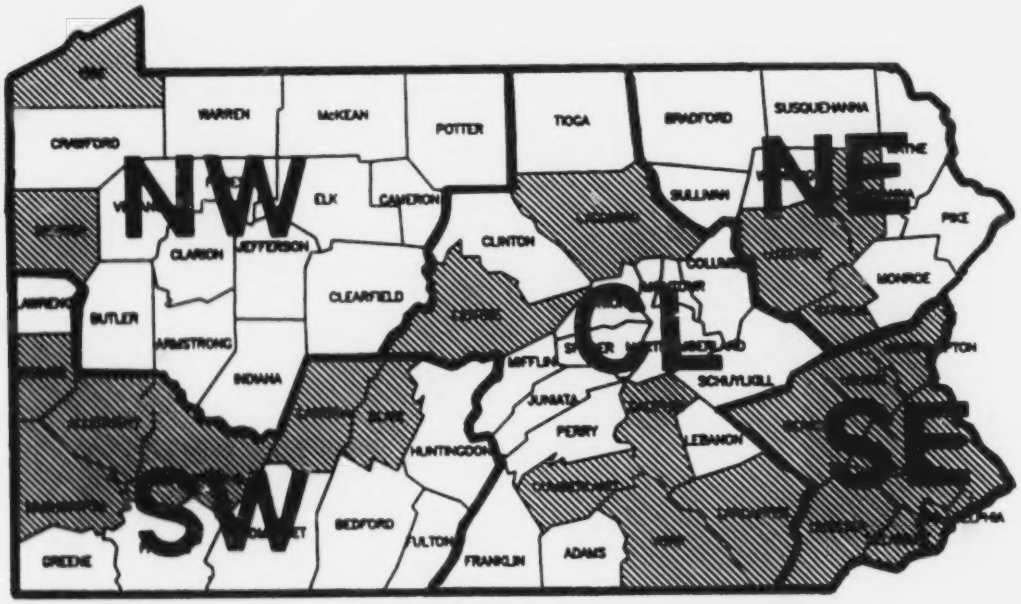
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION:
Public Perception Of "Cheating"

Question: Do you personally know anyone who is receiving workmen's compensation or disability pay that you feel is capable of working but refuses?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	# of Respondents
Statewide	23%	76%	1%	1642
Rural/Urban				
Rural	29	70	1	363
Urban	21	78	1	1279
Region				
Northwest	30	70	0	167
Southwest	25	73	2	389
Central	22	78	0	359
Northeast	16	82	2	121
Southeast	22	78	0	606
Age				
18 - 34	28	72	0	414
35 - 49	26	73	0	560
50 - 64	20	80	1	358
65 or older	14	84	1	306
Sex				
Male	25	74	1	678
Female	22	78	0	951
Marital Status				
Married	23	76	1	1067
Divorced	31	69	0	141
Separated	16	84	0	44
Widowed	17	83	1	166
Never Married	26	74	0	218
Educational Level				
< High School	13	86	1	193
High School Graduate	24	75	1	918
College Graduate	25	75	0	526
Political Affiliation				
Republican	23	77	0	574
Democrat	22	77	1	658
Independent/Other	21	78	1	81
None	26	73	1	297
Religious Preference				
Protestant	23	76	1	798
Catholic	22	77	1	547
Other/None	23	77	0	291
Children				
Yes - Over 18	18	81	1	547
Yes - Under 18	25	74	1	674
No	24	76	0	384

Appendix A:
REGIONAL AND URBAN-RURAL CLASSIFICATION

With only a few exceptions, people living in a borough or township with a total population smaller than 2,500 people and not contiguous to a built-up urbanized area are rural residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. If at least half (50%) of the residents in the county fit this description, then the county is considered rural. The remaining counties are therefore considered urban. Based upon this definition of rural areas, the counties shown in white are considered mostly "rural counties," and the counties shown in grey are considered mostly "urban counties."



– URBAN COUNTIES –

Allegheny
Beaver
Berks
Clair
Bucks
Cambria
Carbon
Centre
Chester
Cumberland
Dauphin
Delaware
Erie
Lackawanna
Lancaster
Lehigh
Luzerne
Lycoming
Mercer
Montgomery
Northampton
Philadelphia
Washington
Westmoreland
York

– RURAL COUNTIES –

Adams
Armstrong
Bedford
Bradford
Butler
Cameron
Clarion
Clearfield
Clinton
Columbia
Crawford
Elk
Fayette
Forest
Franklin
Fulton
Greene
Huntingdon
Indiana
Jefferson
Juniata
Lawrence
Lebanon
McKean
Mifflin
Monroe
Montour
Northumberland
Perry
Pike
Potter
Schuylkill
Snyder
Somerset
Sullivan
Susquehanna
Tioga
Union
Venango
Warren
Wayne
Wyoming

Appendix B:
THE SAMPLE

The sample was provided by Survey Sampling, Inc. It was a sample consisting of 5400 telephone numbers randomly selected from all listed telephone numbers in Pennsylvania. Of this number, 35 percent were completions, 24 percent were refusals, and the remainder were unavailable (no answer, answering machines, etc.). The data were weighted to compensate for the male-female imbalance.

The interviews took place between February 7 and February 26, 1993. Each interview took approximately 10-12 minutes to complete. The sample closely approximates actual demographic characteristics of Pennsylvania.

	Actual	Sample*
Population	11,861,643	1691
Sex		
Male	47%	47%
Female	53	53
Age		
18 - 34	35%	25%
35 - 49	26	34
50 - 64	19	22
65 +	20	19
Region		
Northwest	10%	10%
Southwest	24	24
Central	20	22
Southeast	39	37
Northeast	8	7
Urban-Rural		
Mostly urban counties	79%	78%
Mostly rural counties	21	22
Political Affiliation		
Registered	59%	82%
Republican	45	44
Democratic	51	49
Independent/Other	5	6
Not registered	41	18

* Percentages are weighted for sex.

In theory, in 19 of 20 cases the results based upon the sample will differ by no more than 2.4 percent in either direction from what would be obtained if all Pennsylvania adults with listed telephone numbers were contacted. The potential sampling error for smaller subgroups is larger. For example, for either Democrats or Republicans it is plus or minus 3.5 percent.

Division of Community Services And Continuing Education

CONTINUING EDUCATION
(717) 662-4244 or 4849

Undergraduate/Graduate Courses
- o Mansfield University/Guthrie Education Center-Sayre, PA
- o College Center of The Finger Lakes, Corning, NY
- o Towanda-Williamsport-Loyalsock-Lock Haven

Distance Courses
- o Tele-Conferences
- o Travel Abroad

Undergraduate Special Students
- o Academic Advising and Counseling
- o Course Selection, Registration, Evaluation of Transfer Credit
- o Diagnostic Placement Testing

SUMMER SCHOOL & NON-CREDIT OFFERINGS
(717) 662-4866 or 4850

- o Undergraduate & Graduate Coursework
- o Municipal Police Officers' Training Program and In-Service Training
- o Summer Youth Camps: Gifted, Music, Computer
- o Workshops, Seminars, Travel Tours

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS
(717) 662-4809

- o Grant Writing Workshops
- o Resource Library - Materials & Information
- o Assistance In Locating Funding Sources
- o Cooperative Projects With Community Agencies

RURAL SERVICES INSTITUTE
(717) 662-4808

Small Business Assistance Center
- o Assistance in Starting A New Business and Business Expansions

Applied Research Center
- o Surveys, public opinion polls, studies, evaluations, data analysis

Data Center
- o Rural Data Base - Demographic, Economic, Social data

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
(717) 662-4746

Pride, JTPA & ABE
- o Basic Literacy And Basic Skills Training
- o Preparation For High School Equivalency Diploma (GED)
- o Family/Workplace Literacy Classes
- o Computer Assisted Instruction
- o Volunteer Opportunities
- o Tutor Training Workshops/State Sponsored Seminars

HOPE
- o Tioga County Prison Program

Student Literacy Corps
- o Literacy Corps Projects and University Credit

Copies of this survey are available from:

Rural Services Institute
Mansfield University
209 Doane Center
Mansfield, PA 16933
(717) 662-4808